

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE


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| Applicant: | GENE DIPOTO et al. | Confirmation No.: | 1092 |
| Serial No.: | 10/693,815 | Examiner: | ANURADHA RAMANA |
| Filing Date: | OCTOBER 24, 2003 | Group Art Unit: | 3733 |
| Docket No.: | 1291.1143101 | Customer No.: | 28075 |
| Title: | METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR STABILIZING THE SPINE THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE | | |

AMENDMENT WITH RCE

Mail Stop RCE
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Thu H. Le-To

DECEMBER 26, 2007
Date

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action of the Examiner mailed September 26, 2007, setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response ending December 26, 2007. This paper is filed within the set period for response such that no extension of time is necessary. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.